

Embracing the faith communities of St Mary's Buderim, St Peter's Coolum,
Stella Maris Maroochydore and St Catherine of Siena, Sippy Downs.

STELLA MARIS CATHOLIC PARISH

Our Parish has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

St Valentine Reflection

Valentine's Day is almost here and, generally speaking, most of us fall into one of these categories:

1. We embrace this day because we see it as a day for doting on the one we love, whether it be a new or old love.
2. We dread the day because our insecurity about being single and not having a person of love interest in our lives, is exposed.
3. We see this day as a highly commercialised day where people pay way too much on unnecessary tokens and overpriced roses and choose not to participate.

Let's stop just for a minute and look at a bigger picture. Let us not overthink which of those groups we fall under and instead take a trip back in time to Rome at the time of the Great Persecution. Claudius, the emperor at the time, passed a law forcing men to join the Roman army and prohibiting marriage so that their focus would be on fighting recklessly for the State and not on getting back home to their wives.

You can imagine the disapproval of not only the Christians, but especially of those romantically engaged. Engagements and marriage ceremonies were forbidden, effectively prohibiting one of the seven Sacraments. This law was a direct attack on love and family life.

So, who was **St. Valentine** and what did he do?

Valentine was a Roman priest who was especially disheartened by this decree. In opposition, he performed the Sacrament of marriage for couples in secret. He was eventually caught, imprisoned, and sentenced to death. While in prison he befriended the jailer's daughter, who was blind. He miraculously healed her of her blindness and, as a result, the daughter, the jailer, and his whole family converted to the Christian faith. The night before his execution, Valentine sent a letter of encouragement and farewell to the girl signing it, "From your Valentine". The next day he was brutally beaten, stoned, and finally beheaded for his support of true love and marriage. Crazy stuff!

Can you imagine the kind of love that burned within Valentine's heart? Although he knew the consequences of marrying couples against the law, he knew it was right and was brave enough to stand up for what he believed. Despite the fact that he was about to die, he showed the love of God by healing and bringing the Faith to a family he barely knew. He put aside all his fears and doubts and took a stand for love!

This is what Valentine's Day is all about - sacrificial love. We may have someone special in our life in a romantic way right now or maybe we don't, but the Lord and author of love is always near to us - showering us with His love and waiting patiently to be loved by us! Our God is a true and faithful lover!

This is the love we celebrate on Valentine's Day. Whatever our situation may be romantically, the Lord and lover of our souls longs to hear us say that we love Him! Forget about what the world says this day should be about - the expensive dates and flowers, overly-sexualised relationships - and remember the love that led Jesus Christ to the Cross to die because *he would rather die than live without us*. *This is not to say we shouldn't show our love and appreciation to those we love.*

St. Valentine shows us through his martyrdom that real love is about sacrifice, and that believing in true love is hard. The world tells us to settle for things less than love but true love is worth *fighting* for! May we fight, as St. Valentine did so many years ago, for a life of true, authentic love. No settling for less. Let us embrace the love that our Lord constantly and freely gives to us, and may we in return, for all He has done for us, love Him back. with the love of Christ who, like Valentine, offered His life for love.

Deacon Michael Khoury

PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR 6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Weekend of the 11/12 February 2023

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

Celebrating and Remembering

We welcome into God's Family, the Church, *Riley Peat, Zoe Stuart and Charlotte Styles (Stella Maris Church)* and *Declan Smith and Koa Hickey (St Catherine of Siena Church)* who will be baptised this weekend in our Parish.

We pray for all those who have died, especially *Colleen Brady* (whose funeral will be 10am Tuesday 14 February at White Ladies Chapel, Nambour), *Kevin Ryan* (whose funeral will be 10am Thursday 16 February at St Mary's Church), *Dr Daniel Lane* (whose funeral will be 10.30am Friday 17 February at Stella Maris Church), and *Connie Graham* (whose funeral will be 11.30am Saturday 25 February at Stella Maris Church).

May their souls and the souls of all our departed priests, religious, parishioners and family members, through the rich mercy of God,

Rest in Peace.

Parish Priests

Fr Peter Brannelly PP
Fr William Aupito Iuliano

Deacons

Rev Isaac Falzon
Rev Michael Khoury

Parish Office

Church Street, Maroochydore
(adjoins the Stella Maris Church)

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Getting Ready

Believe it or not, the start of Lent is only 10 days away with Ash Wednesday this year falling on February 22nd. Over these next 10 days we have a great opportunity to think ahead and plan on how you are going to live these 40 days; otherwise you run the risk of squandering the opportunities that are unique to your Lenten journey. An excellent complement to your Lent this year is the **Little Black Book** which contains daily reflections and meditations. It is published in America and once you see past some of the American themes, it has the potential to be a great companion. The challenge is to find 6 minutes each day during Lent. The daily reflections begin from next Sunday so in preparation for Lent the Little Black Books are available from today. We ask for a gold coin donation to help cover the cost of the books. Thank you.

Another opportunity this Lent is our **Mini Mission**. Bishop Tim Norton, as a missionary priest, provincial and retreat master, brings to our community a wealth of experience and unique spirituality. Bishop Tim will lead us over 3 sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, February 27th, February 28th, March 1st, 5 - 6pm at Stella Maris. Everyone is encouraged to make the Parish Mini Mission part of your Lenten journey this year and you are invited to share this invitation with your friends.

One of the Lenten traditions has been to meet in groups across the Parish and reflect on the suggestions contained in the **Archdiocesan Lenten programme**. This year the programme is titled *From Ashes to Hope* and if you are going to form a group please let the Parish Office know. There are already two groups formed and you are welcome to join them.

St Catherine of Siena Church, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, during Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday (22 February).
Contact Helen 0403 617 512.

El Shaddai group - St Catherine of Siena Church, 2.00pm to 3.00pm, weekly during Lent, starting on Saturday, 25 February.
Contact Ellie 0415 522 289.

Ash Wednesday Mass Times Wednesday, 22 February

St Mary's Church, Buderim 7.00am

St Peter's Church, Coolum Beach 7.30am

St Catherine of Siena Church, Sippy Downs 9.00am

Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore 9.00am

Stella Maris Church, Maroochydore 5.00pm

Young Adults' Meeting

Save the date - Saturday, February 25th - and come down to The Savvy Squire, Mooloolaba, for the first Social event for our Young Adults' Group. Those aged 18-40 are more than welcome. **Bring a friend!** If you want some courage or encouragement contact Fr Will (aupitouiulianow@bne.catholic.net.au) or Deacon Isaac (falzoni@bne.catholic.net.au)

Invitation

The origins of **World Day of Prayer** date back to the 19th century when Christian women of the United States and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in missions at home and in other parts of the world.

In 1927 Queensland and New South Wales led the way to the introduction and establishing of Women's World Day of Prayer in Australia. The other states soon followed. Each year a different country prepares the programme. Australia was given the privilege of preparing the Order of Service in 1958 with the theme 'Bread of Life' and again in 1986 with 'Choose Life'.

This year the people of Taiwan have prepared the order of service. The theme is God's promise, in the letter to the Ephesians, which is an invitation to active listening which is the foundation of our prayers. Following the example of the letter (Ephesians 1:15-19), where the author praises the church for their faith in Jesus and love toward all the saints, the worship service contextualises the witness of the saints with the stories from Taiwan.

On Friday, March 3rd you are invited to join your fellow Christians for World Day of Prayer and this year the host churches are:

- ◆ **Buderim:** 10am, St Mary's Catholic Church
- ◆ **Maroochydore:** 10am, St Peter's Anglican Church, Cnr Church Street and Beach Road
- ◆ **Coolum Beach:** 9.30am, Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 25 Beach Road

Becoming a Pastoral Care Volunteer

Do you want to become equipped with the skills to provide pastoral care and support to people in aged care and hospitals? The Volunteers CARE Essentials Course is a basic introduction to Christian pastoral care where you will learn the foundational skills needed to get started on your pastoral care volunteer journey. The programme is run on Friday 18 February and 18 March from 9am to 5pm each day. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Fr Peter at the Parish Office.

The Catholic Leader

Catch up on all the latest Church news each week for free. Scan the QR code or visit their website at www.catholicleader.com.au/newsroom/



Technology for the Third Age

Technology is changing so quickly and the pace of change can overwhelm us. Upgrades happen without our knowledge and suddenly things on our smartphone or tablets have changed or moved. When change happens simple tasks become difficult and frustrating. It is ok for teenagers who have grown up with computers and whose lives are fully consumed by them – *but what about the rest of us?* How do you find an app, operate the calendar, organise photos, access podcasts?

On the second Friday of the month, following the 9am Mass at Stella Maris Church, we are organising a self-help Technology for the Third Age gathering where we will explore and find solutions to some of the technology challenges that frustrates us. Our first gathering will be on Friday, March 10th. All welcome. Contact the Parish Office on 5443 3488 if you are interested.

THE WEEK AHEAD

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which our communities celebrate liturgies and live out our faith.

We pay respects to leaders past, present and emerging. May their example of stewardship be reflected in our lives.

Monday, 13 February

- ◆ Adoration 4.30pm, Stella Maris
- ◆ **Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)
- ◆ Parish Finance Council meeting

Tuesday, 14 February

- ◆ **Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris School Chapel). All Welcome.

Wednesday, 15 February

- ◆ **Mass** (7am, St Mary's Church)
- ◆ **Mass** (9am, St Catherine of Siena Church).
- ◆ SVdP Maroochydore meeting
- ◆ Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom).
- ◆ Latin American Prayer Group (6pm, Function Room, Maroochydore)

Thursday, 16 February

- ◆ **Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ SVdP Coolum meeting
- ◆ 2pm Rosary & Divine Mercy (Stella Maris)

Friday, 17 February

- ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris)
- ◆ Grief Support team meeting
- ◆ Funeral Mass for Dr Daniel Lane - 10:30am
- ◆ 2pm Stations of the Cross (Stella Maris)
- ◆ Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6pm, Stella Maris)

Saturday, 18 February

- ◆ Reconciliation **8.30 to 9.30am** (Stella Maris)
- ◆ 10am Baptism of Tahlia Kelly and Natalia Esperanza at Stella Maris Church.
- ◆ **12noon** El Shaddai 16th Anniversary (Sippy Downs) Registrations 8.30am, start 9.00am
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (4.30pm, St Peter's Church)
- ◆ **Vigil Mass** (6.00pm, Stella Maris Church)

Sunday, 19 February

- 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A
- ◆ **Mass** (6.30am, Stella Maris Church)
 - ◆ **Mass** (7.30am, St Peter's Church) - including Children's Liturgy of the Word
 - ◆ **Mass** (8am, St Catherine of Siena Church)
 - ◆ **Mass** (9am, Stella Maris Church)
 - ◆ **Mass** (9.30am, St Mary's Church)
 - ◆ **Mass** (5pm, Stella Maris Church)

Craft Group

Before Covid struck there were many groups within our community and being a part of all those groups kept us connected and engaged. We want to re-establish a Craft Group here at Stella Maris which will meet at the function room on the 4th Friday of the month following the 9am morning Mass. Everyone welcome. We have two lovely ladies coordinating the Craft Group, and if you would like to be part of the group please give the Parish Office (5443 3488) a call.

Catholic Education in our Stella Maris Parish Family

Siena Catholic Primary School

58 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs
psippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Glen Bucklar



On Wednesday, our Siena family came together to celebrate the beginning of the school year with a beautiful Mass led by Fr Peter, Fr Will and Deacon Isaac.

Based on our theme, 'Be the Flame – Let your Light Shine', the children, staff and parishioners all praised, thanked and asked God for guidance and courage this year as they ensure the light of God is the power that they live in their daily lives and interactions.

The choir and school sang beautifully. Many thanks to Mrs Khoury for all the work in preparing both the choir and the classes and to Isobel Summit for accompanying the singing on the piano.

It was lovely to share the Mass with the parishioners.

Each Year level displayed their vision statements for the year. And these were blessed by Fr Peter. These visions, written and pledged by the students, are testimony to how they will 'Be the Flame' this year.

It was a lovely celebration of the Eucharist which is central to our Catholic learning and teaching.

May God continue to bless you this week.

In 2023, Year 2 will let our light shine by not hiding our inner strengths and talents. We choose to share our gifts so we can show others how to let their light shine.

YEAR 4 will BE THE FLAME IN 2023
By striving to live each day as the light of Christ. We will show CARE and RESPECT for OTHERS, for our LEARNING and our SCHOOL. We will BE THE FLAME so everyone can know of GOD'S LOVE through US

Year 5 Mission Statement
Year 5 will BE THE FLAME in 2023 by being Christ's body, using our hands, feet and eyes to reflect the values of Jesus through our attitudes, words, and actions. We will be light bearers for God, letting our light shine by spreading God's colours to those in need.

Stella Maris Primary School

Stella Maris Way,
Maroochydore
pmaroochydore@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Mark Ballam



How excited our Year 2 students were yesterday when some visitors from the Maroochydore Parish arrived to speak with them. The children have been investigating the history of the parish and school as part of their Religious Education program as they learn more about how a parish works. They have been analysing photographs, studying plaques and memorabilia and developing a whole list of questions they want answered. They invited Mrs Baillie, Fr Peter and Deacon Isaac to come to school to share their wisdom.

Mrs Baillie shared lots of interesting facts, stories and images to help students with their learning. The children were amazed to learn that the parish we were originally a part of is actually 100 years old and the parishioners at the first ever parish Mass actually travelled by foot, boat, tram and horse and cart to get there. They were very interested in learning the stories of the different churches and how they changed over time. Fr Peter and Deacon Isaac answered questions about the role of the different people who work in the parish and explained the difference between priests and deacons.

There's so much to learn! If you would like to learn more as well, take a look at the parish website on the [Our Parish – Our History](#) page.



Siena Catholic College

60 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs
ssippydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Michael McCarthy



Last week saw the College gather in prayer at the *Induction of College Leaders*. With more than 1000 students, staff, and parents in attendance, it was certainly a wonderful community occasion. Deacon Isaac joined us for the morning and shared his thoughts on the Beatitudes - we thank him for his insights. As part of the ceremony, we presented badges to our new student leaders and acknowledged the role of all Year 12s in leading the College in 2023. Special congratulations to Jasmin B and Jacob B-N, our new College Captains.

On Wednesday, we gathered at the Kawana Pool for the annual *Swimming Carnival*. This was another community building event; as students vied for that first placing in age-group races, enjoyed a variety of novelty events, or spent time picnicking with friends. Congratulations to Ozanam who took out the trophy as champion House.

Friday night saw our staff and students again on the volunteer roster for the *Stella Maris Community Meal*. Being part of the crew for this event is something that challenges all involved to be of service to others. One of the Year 12s who attended commented: *'I had an awesome night! It was such a great experience; I will definitely be back!'*

